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SUBJECT Christopher Boyce Talks of Spying

MARIA SHRIVER: Spy charges against three members of the Walker family have once again raised the question, why do Americans sell out to the Russians? Perhaps no one knows that better than Christopher Boyce, the Falcon half of the young California team known as the "Falcon and the Snowman."

Boyce started selling spy satellite secrets to the Soviets at age 21. He went to prison at age 24, then escaped to Idaho, where he robbed banks.

Yesterday I spoke with him in federal prison in Marion, Illinois, where he is serving a 68-year sentence. He says he is now talking to reporters because he wants to discourage others from following in his path.

I was reading a 60 Minutes interview you did a couple years ago. And in that interview you said, "I'm not sorry for what I did. If I had to do it over again, I would do it again, but I'd do it better." And you said, "I think what the United States needs is just a few more traitors."

Do you still believe that today?

CHRISTOPHER BOYCE: My first political awareness was Kennedy being assassinated, and then the riots and the war, and as I grew up, and the napalm on television, and then Richard Nixon making a mess of government. And I had no experience that things could rebound or that -- I had no way to gauge the resiliency of the American Constitution. It's not weak, like men. And I thought that what was wrong with the United States, and at the very core of that, was the CIA. And I thought that somebody ought to give them a good bashing. And I did. And I'm

not proud of it. And it was very naive. And it did cause damage. And espionage is not what I thought it was.

Espionage is something that grabs you by the guts and pulls you down, and what you do is you make yourself a -- you bond yourself to an uncaring foreign bureaucracy that does not have your interest at heart, that only wants to exploit you. It's just not what you see in those screwy James Bond movies.

SHRIVER: Let me ask you about the most recent case. What was your reaction when you heard about the Walker case?

BOYCE: I can understand if someone blunders into espionage themselves and makes that mistake and then realizes what it is. But to then turn around and bring your own kin into it, your own son into espionage, that man could not love his own son, and he could not even like himself.

SHRIVER: Do you consider the Walkers traitors?

BOYCE: Well, what else? I suppose that you would.

SHRIVER: Do you consider yourself one?

BOYCE: I suppose, yeah.

SHRIVER: A lot of people think that this Walker case, that all these espionage cases are just the tip of the iceberg. Do you agree with them?

BOYCE: I agree that it's an epidemic, and I agree that the present methods of combatting it are inadequate. And the best thing that they could do would be to communicate to the four million Americans with security clearances exactly what espionage would mean to them personally, as individuals, how it would wreck their life.

People have the wrong idea that it's a sexy thing, you know, like it's a Hollywood thing or it's some romantic, you know, and filled with seduction and hijinks. And you can forget all that. It's drudgery and it's waking up every morning, you know, and knowing that you have to go back into that vault and that your whole life is a deception and the KGB is going -- you know, they despise you while they use you. And it's just -- if you want to make yourself miserable -- you know, whatever problem you have, whatever thing you think you might solve by getting yourself involved in espionage, you know, forget it. All you're going to do is make yourself miserable. It's like walking in a dark room and falling down a hole.

SHRIVER: But a lot of the people listening to this will

say, "That guy sold this country down the drain, and I'm never going to forgive him."

BOYCE: I did it. That's all I can say. I screwed up.

SHRIVER: You're a young man, 32 years of age.

BOYCE: I don't feel young.

SHRIVER: You don't?

BOYCE: No.

SHRIVER: Most young men your age do a lot of dreaming. They dream about what they can do with the rest of their lives. When you're down there in your cell, when you're alone, what do you dream about?

BOYCE: Going back to Idaho, back up to the mountains, where you can walk for miles and miles, and there is nobody locking the door.

SHRIVER: Christopher Boyce becomes eligible for parole in August of 1988.